Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 05127 262226Z

63
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-05 SY-04 SCCT-02 SIL-01 LAB-06 SR-02 ORM-03

DRC-01 /120 W
---------- 064239
R 262158Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9969

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5127

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, CI
SUBJECT: GOC BANS "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF"

1. SUMMARY: BANNING OF "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF" FOR POLITICAL REASONS MAY INDICATE JUNTA NERVIOUSNESS ON EVEN OF SEPT 11 COUP ANNIVERSARY. END SUMMARY.

2. WEEKEND SANTIAGO PRESS ANNOUNCED GOC MINISTER OF EDUCATION ADMIRAL CASTRO HAD BANNED SHOWING IN CHILE OF FILM "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF," WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO OPEN HERE AUGUST 29. ALTHOUGH CENSORSHIP BOARD HAD PASSED FILM, ANNOUNCEMENT STATED MINISTER OF EDUCATION HAD USED HIS AUTHORITY UNDER THE LAW TO PROHIBIT SHOWING BECAUSE IT "CONTAINED ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS WHICH RUN COUNTER TO THE HARMONY OF CHILEANS IN THIS MOMENT OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION."

3. SINCE JUNTA ALLOWED RESUMPTION OF LARGE-SCALE US FILM IMPORTS SOME MONTHS AGO, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THE CENSORSHIP BOARD HAS BANNED ONLY ONE -- "LAST TANGO IN PARIS" -- TO ACCOMPANIMENT OF MUCH ADVERSE COMMENT, EVEN INCLUDING STATEMENT BY JUNTA MEMBER AND AIR FORCE GENERAL LEIGH THAT HE DID NOT APPROVE OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05127 262226Z

DECISION. FILMS SUCH AS "CARNAL KNOWLEDGE," "THE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

GODFATHER," AND "THE EXORCIST" HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING ADMITTED.

4. CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVE OF US UNITED ARTISTS IS CONCERNED, SINCE HE HAD APPARENTLY INVESTED A FAIR AMOUNT IN PUBLICITY EXPENSES FOR "FIDDLER." WE WERE INTRIGUED, SINCE WE ASSUMED MOTIVE FOR PROHIBITION WAS POLITICAL.

5. OUR SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT DECISION WAS TAKEN AT HIGH LEVEL AND WILL NOT BE REVERSED; THAT ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE REASON FOR BANNING IS THAT MILITARY ARE SHOWN IN AN UNFAVORABLE LIGHT. THIS APPLIES BOTH TO CZARIST UNIFORMED LOCAL OFFICIAL, WHO APPEARS REPEATEDLY, AND SCENE INVOLVING COSSACK ATTACK ON DEMONSTRATING WORKERS. FROM ANOTHER SOURCE WE UNDERSTAND GENERAL PINOCHET HIMSELF SAW FILM PRIVATELY AND JUDGED IT TO BE SUBTLE MARXIST PROPAGANDA.

6. OUR NON-MILITARY CHILEAN CONTACTS RECOGNIZE THAT THIS STEP WILL HARDLY HELP THE "IMAGE" OF CHILE ABROAD, WHICH CHILEANS ARE AT SUCH PAINS TO RECTIFY. IT ILLUSTRATES EXTENT TO WHICH ALL DEVELOPMENTS HERE TEND TO BE THROWN INTO MARXIST VS. ANTI-MARXIST CONTEXT, AS WELL AS ALL-PERVADING CONCERN TO PREVENT EVEN IMPLIED CRITICISM OF CHILE'S MILITARY FORCES.

7. TAKEN TOGETHER WITH HEAVILY PUBLICIZED NEW WEEKEND AREA SEARCHES (SEPTEL), THIS EPISODE AND OTHER TIDBITS GIVE US THE IMPRESSION THAT AS THE SEPTEMBER 11 ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNTA'S ACQUISITION OF POWER APPROACHES, TENSION AMONG GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL MAY BE INCREASING. SANTIAGO TODAY, FOR EXAMPLE, IS HEARING RUMORS THAT SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN SHOT AT NIGHT IN A CENTRAL SANTIAGO LOCATION. WE FIND NO BASIS FOR SUCH REPORTS; OUR INFO, ON THE CONTRARY, INDICATES THAT GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO SCORE HEAVILY IN ERADICATING EXTREME LEFT REMNANTS AROUND THE COUNTRY. WE THINK IT POSSIBLE CURRENT NERVOUSNESS MAY BE TEMPORARY AND THAT IT MAY EASE AFTER NATIONAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS SEPT 18-19. WILL REPORT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05127 262226Z

POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FILMS, JUNTA, CENSORSHIP, LAW, MOTION PICTURES, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA05127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740235-1205
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740818/aaaaaosl.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOC BANS "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF"
TAGS: SOPN, CI, US, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005